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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**I. STATUS OF THE PENDING CLAIMS**

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 23 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,764,132 to Hill ("Hill"). Claims 1-4, 7 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,975,713 to Brothers ("Brothers"). Claims 23-25, 27-30, 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,018,057 to Biggs et al. ("Biggs"). Claims 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,848,807 to Guerrieri ("Guerrieri"). Claims 12-22 are indicated to be allowable subject matter if amended to correct for specified terms lacking antecedent basis.

Claims 1-11 and 23-37 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 12-21 amended.

**II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) OVER HILL**

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 23 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Hill.

Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 1-3, 5-10, 23 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer, to pursue them in a related application. Therefore, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is now moot and should be withdrawn.

**III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) OVER BROTHERS**

Claims 1-4, 7 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Brothers.

Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 1-4, 7 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer, to pursue them in a related application. Therefore, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is now moot and should be withdrawn.

**IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) OVER BIGGS**

Claims 23-25, 27-30, 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Biggs.

Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 23-25, 27-30, 32 and 33 without prejudice or disclaimer, to pursue them in a related application. Therefore, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot and should be withdrawn.

**V. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) OVER GUERRIERI**

Claims 23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Guerrieri.

Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 23 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer, to pursue them in a related application. Therefore, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot and should be withdrawn.

**VI. INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

Claims 12-22 were indicated to be allowable if amended to correct for specified terms lacking antecedent basis. Independent claim 12, to which claim 22 depends, and dependent claims 13-21 have been amended accordingly, and are now submitted to be in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicant has amended claim 12 to ensure proper antecedent basis by deleting "hollow," which is not a critical feature of the invention and which was not identified in the Examiner's statement of allowable subject matter.

**VII. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Preliminary Examination Report and cited references received after mailing of the most recent Office Action in this application.

FROM W&C 20FLOOR

Application No. 10/821,291, filed April 9, 2004

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**VII. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 12-22 are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

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Respectfully submitted,

*for Andrew Lessak (48,528)*  
Scott T. Weingaertner  
Reg. No. 37,756  
Attorney for Applicant

Customer No. 007470  
White & Case LLP  
Direct Dial: (212) 819-8404